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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 24, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 18 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 14.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first seven weeks of 1984 was an estimated 116.8 billion ton-miles, 11.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 18 totaled 399,246 cars, 13.3 percent above 1983, and 1.1 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 22.3 percent in the East, 11.4 percent in the South and 9.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up 4,635 cars, or 28.5 percent; metallic ores were up 4,268 cars, or 39.8 percent; and coal loadings increased by 16,526 cars, or 16.5 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 11 totaled 49,881 cars, up 3.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 87,759 trailers and/or containers, 5.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first six weeks of the year was 283,021 cars, 15.7 percent higher than last year, and 496,320 trailers and/or containers, up 18.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/18/84:

	Loadings in Week ended February 18, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,874	I	1,492	5.3	I	351	1.2
Other farm products	4,620	I	1,587	52.3	D	566	10.9
Metallic ores	15,000	I	4,268	39.8	I	1,442	10.6
Coal	116,544	I	16,526	16.5	I	3,722	3.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	8,883	I	1,817	25.7	I	444	5.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,921	D	22	0.2	D	1,299	10.6
Grain mill products	11,864	D	414	3.4	D	184	1.5
Food and kindred products	11,144	D	2,337	17.3	I	319	2.9
Primary forest products	14,165	D	535	3.6	I	77	0.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,642	I	469	6.5	D	37	0.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,778	D	490	3.2	D	455	3.0
Chemicals and allied products	26,390	I	3,032	13.0	I	151	0.6
Petroleum products	4,838	I	528	12.3	D	398	7.6
Stone, clay and glass products	10,639	I	2,043	23.8	I	489	4.8
Coke	4,750	I	116	2.5	D	309	6.1
Metals and products	10,437	I	2,233	27.2	I	428	4.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,891	I	4,635	28.5	D	244	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	11,211	I	3,570	46.7	I	558	5.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,112	I	685	7.3	D	289	2.8
All other carloads	54,248	I	7,404	15.8	D	47	0.1
LCL traffic	295	I	127	75.6	I	11	3.9
Total Cars Loaded	399,246	I	46,734	13.3	I	4,164	1.1
Corresponding week of 1983	352,512						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (7 weeks)	2,629,038	2,375,350	I 10.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
6 weeks ended February 11	99.1	89.6	I 10.6
Week ended February 18	17.6	15.5	I 14.0
7 weeks cumulative	116.8	105.1	I 11.1

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